WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information processing apparatus comprising:

a reader, arranged to read a document image;

a recognition section, arranged to recognize character strings of the read document image;

a extractor, arranged to extract a character string indicating contents of a document from the recognized character strings; and

a synthesizer, arranged to synthesize and output speech based on the chosen character string.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said extractor extracts the character string indicating the contents of the document on the basis of the recognized character string, a location of the character string on the document image, a character size and color, and vertical or horizontal writing.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said extractor extracts a title of each page of the document.

4. An information processing apparatus comprising:

a reader, arranged to read a document image;

a recognition section, arranged to recognize character strings of the read document image;

an extractor, arranged to extract character strings indicating pages of documents from the recognized character strings;

a determiner, arranged to determine a page order

of documents and/or omission of a page on the basis of the extracted character strings; and

an output section, arranged to output speech corresponding to a determination result.

5. The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said output section comprises a synthesizer arranged to synthesize speech that represents the determination result.

6. An information processing apparatus comprising:

a reader, arranged to read a document image;

a recognition section, arranged to recognize character strings of the read document image;

an extractor, arranged to extract a character string, which represents the number of pages of documents, from character strings recognized from a first page of a document;

a counter, arranged to count the number of pages of documents;

a comparator, arranged to compare the extracted character string and a count value of said counter; and

an output section, arranged to output speech corresponding to a comparison result.

7. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said output section comprises a synthesizer arranged to synthesize speech that represents the comparison result.

8. An information processing method comprising steps

of:

reading a document image;

recognizing character strings of the read document image;

extracting a character string indicating contents of a document from the recognized character strings; and

synthesizing and outputting speech based on the chosen character string.

9. An information processing method comprising steps of:

reading a document image;

recognizing character strings of the read document image;

extracting character strings indicating pages of documents from the recognized character strings;

determining a page order of documents and/or omission of a page on the basis of the extracted character strings; and

outputting speech corresponding to a determination result.

10. An information processing method comprising steps of:

reading a document image;

recognizing character strings of the read document image;

extracting a character string, which represents

the number of pages of documents, from character strings recognized from a first page of a document;

counting the number of pages of documents;

comparing the extracted character string and count value; and

outputting speech corresponding to a comparison result.

11. A computer program product storing a computer readable medium comprising a computer program code, for an information processing method, the method comprising steps of:

reading a document image;

recognizing character strings of the read document image;

extracting a character string indicating contents of a document from the recognized character strings; and

synthesizing and outputting speech based on the chosen character string.

12. A computer program product storing a computer readable medium comprising a computer program code, for an information processing method, the method comprising steps of:

reading a document image;

recognizing character strings of the read document image;

extracting character strings indicating pages of

documents from the recognized character strings;

determining a page order of documents and/or omission of a page on the basis of the extracted character strings; and

outputting speech corresponding to a determination result.

13. A computer program product storing a computer readable medium comprising a computer program code, for an information processing method, the method comprising steps of:

reading a document image;

recognizing character strings of the read document image;

extracting a character string, which represents the number of pages of documents, from character strings recognized from a first page of a document;

counting the number of pages of documents;

comparing the extracted character string and count value; and

outputting speech corresponding to a comparison result.